

THE TACHMONITE



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Combat Soldiers of Ish-bosheth and David
Picture from The Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testaments books collection published in 1885, Stuttgart-Germany.
Drawings by Gustave Doré

“The time for war has not yet come, but it will come, and that soon; and when it does come, my advice is to draw the sword and throw away the scabbard.”

THE TACHMONITE



These were David's chief warriors who, together with all Israel, supported him in his reign in order to make him true king, even as the Lord had commanded concerning Israel.

These are the names of David's valiant warriors,^{1, 2} who, together with all Israel, gave his kingship strong support to extend it over the whole of the land, as the LORD had promised:³ **J'asheb-Bashebeth son of Thakhamoni**⁴ sitting in the first chair,⁵ was wisest chief among “*the three captains*,”⁶ which were the mightiest of warriors among David's heroes that hadst joined him in *the land of the Philistines at the fortress of Ziklag*,⁷ the capital of the **Cherethites** (Carites or Cretans)⁸ and **Pelethi mercenaries** in the employee of King David; *a corrupted people* which served in his bodyguard as *executioners* and *runners*, commanded by **Benaiah son of Jehoiada the priest**,⁹ a mighty man among the Thirty and over the Thirty,¹⁰ and in his army as bowmen and slingers, and a picked corps of six hundred men of Gath commanded by **Ittai the Gittite**.¹¹

¹ There are thirty-seven (37) warriors in all mentioned in this list: **David's warriors** (2 Samuel 23.8-39): First there are “*the three warriors*” most noted for single-handed exploits (vv 8-19). Thence follows a story of a daring adventure by three unnamed members of the larger group (vv 13-17). Next came the commanders of the king's bodyguard: **Abishai** (vv 18-19) and **Benaiah** (vv 20-23), with whom must be counted **Asahel** (v 24) and **Joab** (vv 18, 24, & 37), the commander-in-chief of the whole of the forces, and finally, of the king's aides-de-camp, “*the group of thirty*” (vv 24-39). *A more complete notice about Asahel, who died early in his career* (2 Samuel 2.16-23), *is to be presumed lost at this point. Elhanan is the first of the thirty...* [NAB]

² **Yosheb Bashshebet** (יֹשֶׁב בַּשֶּׁבֶת) (a euphemism for **Esh-baal the Tachmonite**); also called **Ishbaal**; **Jesbaham**; (**Jashobeam** (יִשְׁבָּעַם); **Jashob-Baal**): This name is not found in the *Vulgate*, but it is supplied from 1 Paralipomenon 11.11 [*Confraternity*]

³ 1 Chronicles 11.10

⁴ Hachamoni

⁵ Not the *chief seat of the Sanhedrin*... but in the council of war, where he presided under the general, and so over all the other captains; and therefore was neither David nor Joab, to whom some of the Rabbins apply these words. [*Gill's Exposition on the Entire Bible*]

⁶ The title was given to **Abishai** in 2 Samuel 23.18 and 1 Chronicles 11.20, and to **Amasa** in 1 Chronicles 12.18. The word *captain* is of uncertain meaning and the orthography repeatedly fluctuates between 2 Samuel 23.8 and the duplicate passage in 1 Chronicles 11.11, between “*Shalish*” (“*a captain*”) and “*Sheloshah*” (“*three*”). [*Barnes Notes on the Bible*]

The Three: “*the Chronicler*” names only two of them, **Ishbaal** and **Eleazar**.

The Thirty: The list given in 2 Samuel 23.8-39 often differs in names and spellings of those listed in 1 Chronicles 11.26-47. Hebrew reads “*leader of the Thirty*,” or “*leader of the captains*.”

⁷ 1 Chronicles 12.16

⁸ A second wave of immigrants that was aboriginal to Crete: the **Philistines** being first.

⁹ **Abishai** and **Benaiah** were in the second rank of heroes, who distinguished themselves above the rest by brave deeds, though they did not compare to *the first three* (2 Samuel 23.18-23). The others all belonged to the third class, which consisted of thirty-two men, of whom no particular heroic deeds are attributed (vv 24-39). Twelve of these, viz., the five belonging to the first two classes and seven of the third, which were appointed by David commanders of the twelve detachments into which he divided his army, each detachment to serve for one month in the year (1 Chronicles 27).

¹⁰ 1 Chronicles 27.5

¹¹ [*Barnes' Notes on the Bible*]



J'asheb-Bashebeth was like *Adino the Eznite*,¹² the most tender¹³ little worm of the wood,¹⁴ adorned with weapons and renown of old for his valour:

Adino was facing the immovable mountain, unable to go over or around, he had to go through it. He only had one option, and that was to stand and fight. Many times we are put in this same situation. When God allows a mountain to rise up in our lives we discover we are not able to go over it, around it, or ignore it. We, as Adino, must determine to stand and fight, no matter what the odds.

Today many attempt to ignore their insurmountable mountains, hoping they will go away. Sooner or later the mountains become so big in their lives, they cannot be ignored. This is where God in His love must bring each one of us. We must deal with the mountains in our lives if we are to ascend into His glory.

Adino only had one solution to his predicament, and that was to depend on God to do battle for him. God did not fail Adino, and He will not fail us.

Prince Xavier Kuriakose¹⁵

J'asheb-Bashebeth killed eight hundred slain in a single encounter with his battle-ax. It was *Adino the Eznite* who had brandished his spear against three hundred, whom he wounded and slew in a single encounter; which, though a very extraordinary exploit... yet not quite as strange as that of **Shagmar**'s slaying six hundred men with an ox goad,¹⁶ or as that of **Samson**'s killing a thousand men with the jawbone of an ass.¹⁷ *Some observe that he encountered eight hundred and slew three hundred before his men came and the rest of the Philistines fled, routed and pursued, and killed by his men; others have concluded that there were two battles where-in eight hundred were slain and three hundred, respectively, by the same man—J'asheb-Bashebeth son of Thakhamoni.*¹⁸

Next to **J'asheb-Bashebeth son of Thakhamoni** among the three captains or regiments of hundreds and thousands were **Eleazar son of Dodo (Dodai)**¹⁹ *the Ahohite* and **Shammah**²⁰ *son of Agee the Hararite*.

The texts concerning David's mighty men are fragmentary both in *Samuel* (1 & 2 Kings) and in *Chronicles* (*Paralipomenon*). If they were more complete they would *perhaps* make it clear that *the Three* [] were comrades of David at Pas-dammim, Ephes-dammim (1 Chronicles 11.13; 1 Samuel 17.1); and that we have in them additional details concerning that battle. The record states *that* on the death of **Goliath** the Philistines fled [and] the Israelites pursued (1 Samuel 17.52 ff), but it is not improbable that during the retreat portions of the Philistine force rallied, so that there was strenuous fighting.

Willis J. Beecher

malgré-nix

¹² **Ferrar Fenton** has *Adino the Atznite*. He is also called *Ading the Eznite*—according to a **Haggadah**, the name is only *a designation of David to denote two of his principle virtues*: On account of his modesty he is called *Adino* "pliant like a worm", because like **Shepard-King David**, he crawled in the dust before pious men and scholars. For his heroic deeds and strength he is called **Ha'-Enzi** ("the man as strong as a tree").

¹³ **Most tender**: He appeared tender and weak, but was exceedingly valiant and strong. [*Confraternity*]

¹⁴ Latin: *tenerrimus ligni verniculus*

¹⁵ In 2012, Kuriakose, CEO & Founder at Prince Global Future Solutions Ltd., was the chief executive officer of Prince Refrigeration Pvt Ltd, that sells cold storage equipment in India and is the sole channel partner of Italian company, Zanotti Spa.

¹⁶ Judges 3.31

¹⁷ Judges 15.15

¹⁸ [*Gill's Exposition on the Entire Bible*]

¹⁹ **The son of Dodo**: The Hebrew has *son of Dodo*; but the Latin *Vulgate* translates the Hebrew word "Dodo" as "uncle" and has *son of his uncle*. [*Confraternity*]

²⁰ **Semma son of Age of Arari**: Not mentioned by "*the Chronicler*" (1 Chronicles 11.11, 12).



Top Left: Heracles slaying the Nemean Lion by Chance McConnell

Top Right: Sampson slaying a lion with his bare hands. Hand-colored woodcut of a 19th century illustration: (32.8 x 41.2 cm; 12.9 x 16.2 inches) North Wind Picture Archives

Center Left: Benaiah slays a lion

Center Right: Shepherd-King David slays a lion

Not Pictured: Alcathous of Elis slays the Thespian Lion of Cithaeron

Bottom: Una and the Lion from Edmund Spenser's "Fairy Queene" by Briton Rivière